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BOROUGH OF WELSHPOOL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1940.

*To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.*

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 20,426.

X Registrar General's estimate of resident population in mid-1940 is 5,490, being an increase of 199 on the 1939 figures.

X Number of inhabited houses, 1,756.

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate, £26548, £103.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—On enquiry at the Labour Exchange I am informed that unemployment is practically non-existent at the present time, in fact, it is difficult to find men and women to undertake jobs, the demand apparently exceeding the supply.

Agriculture is the chief industry carried on in the district, there is also a considerable trade in timber and a small tar distillery.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—In 1940 there were actually 125 births in the Borough, but this number has been reduced by the Registrar General's Office to 83, on which to calculate a birth rate, as it is stated that 42 of the births are "outward transfers," and this discrepancy will be greater this year owing to the increasing popularity of the Hospital maternity wards. Of these births, 125, only three were illegitimate. There were 7 still births registered, all being legitimate.

The Birth Rate calculated therefore on the Registrar General's figures for 1940 is 15.5, and on the actual births registered in Welshpool is 22.7 per 100 of the registered population for mid-1940.

In 1939 the Birth Rate was 14.08 per 1000.

In 1940 the Birth Rate for England and Wales was 14.6.

DEATHS.—38 Male and 47 Female. Total deaths—85. The death rate therefore for 1940 is 15.4 per 1000. There were *no deaths* from Puerperal or other Maternal causes.

Death Rate of Infants under one year—64 per 1000 live births; *5 of these were notified as of premature birth.*

No illegitimate infants died under one year.

Deaths from Cancer—9.

No deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

No deaths from diarrhoea under two years.

There was no excessive or unusual mortality during the year under review.

## SECTION B.

(a). The Emergency Medical Service laboratory at Aberystwith continues to render excellent service.

(b) Ambulance; (c) Home Nursing; (e) Treatment Centres and Clinics. In all these there has been no change.

The Public Health Officers remain as last year.

(f) Hospital: Voluntary. The activities at the Victoria Memorial Hospital have been very considerable during the past twelve months. The Blood Transfusion Service is now well installed for the town and now has a Donor List of 200. Forty of these are on the Hospital List as Universal Donors, and although the Town and District require double that number, yet, it is a good start, and great hopes are entertained that many more Donors will be forthcoming in the very near future. We now have 25—30 Pints of plasma and are promised another 60 Pints for resuscitation in the event of a bad bombing. Our Hospital has now a good installation which enables the Public to have continuous Oxygen, and no less than six patients can be treated at the same time. This should give the Public a great sense of security. The Hospital has installed the very latest Continuous Gas and Oxygen apparatus, which many patients have already had the benefit of. Much other expensive and valuable equipment has already been provided for the benefit of the Public and such additions are still going on.

The Public should be very grateful to the Hospital Committee for its co-operation and valuable help they are constantly giving to their Medical Staff.

## SECTION C.

WATER.—The figures showing rainfall for the period January to September, 1940, are so low that they are given in detail for record purposes:—

January, .21; February, .72; March, 2.44; April, 2.62; May, 2.82; June, 1.56; July, 3.51; August, .35; September, 2.27, which gives a total to end of September of 16.39.

The remaining figures are October, 3.53; November, 9.89; December, 1.68, making a total for the year of 31.49.

In spite of these figures, which are the lowest readings recorded at the Council's rain-gauge, there was approximately 3 million gallons of water in storage at the reservoirs at the end of the dry period and this in spite of the fact that the average consumption was 95,000 gallons per day.

The analyses of the towns water after filtration and chemical treatment were all satisfactory.

There was an ample supply of water to all quarters of the town except those near the top water level on Westwood Park Estate. Frost and excessive use of water in the lower levels caused a difficulty here which led to the Council installing a pumping unit, with storage tank, at a cost of £350, towards which the benefiting owners have agreed to contribute £100. This work is now in hand.

The minimum waste line recorded at the weekly night inspections was 1,300 gallons per hour.

The supply to the villages of Groes and Guilsfield was adequate throughout the year, but the quality of the water is still below standard. On the advice of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Aberystwyth the dosage of Chlorine has been increased, and further samples are now being submitted for analysis.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—Occasional floodings of the Severn Valley took place during the year. These were caused by exceptional rain storms. There was no flooding in the built-up area.

Sections of the sewer have been cleaned out. There was no extensions of the mains.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—No action was found necessary.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—No change.

**SHOPS AND OFFICES.**—The provisions of the Shops Acts have been complied with. No Court proceedings were necessary.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—No action was found necessary.

**SWIMMING BATHS.**—No action.

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**—The condemned houses let under licence to shelter evacuees from the Birkenhead Area were disinfected prior to occupation.

**SCHOOLS.**—The Schools in the Borough have been inspected periodically. The sanitary accommodation at the Berriew Road Boys' School has been very much improved.

**HOUSING.**—51 condemned houses have been let, under licence, to accommodate evacuees.

Two notices were served under the Housing Act of 1936 requiring improvement to houses. No statutory proceedings were taken.

**MILK SUPPLIES.**—5 inspections have been carried out in connection with the issue of licences under the Milk and Dairy Order 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.



At the end of the year 11 producers in the Borough held accredited milk producers licences. 2 applications were received for registration under the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926 and 1 premises was registered.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Meat is being supplied from the central slaughter-house at Newtown; delivery is by covered motor lorry. Frequent inspections have been made, and there is no ground for complaint.

### SECTION F.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year the following cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified:—

Scarlet Fever.—3. No deaths. 1 admitted to hospital.

Diphtheria.—2. No deaths. 2 admitted to hospital.

Puerperal pyrexia.—Nil.

Enteric fever.—Nil.

Pneumonia.—6. 2 deaths. 4 admitted to hospital.

Measles.—90. No deaths. All treated at home.

Erysipelas.—2, No deaths. None admitted to hospital.

Tuberculosis.—Respiratory new cases notified, 3; ages, 1 male age 34; 2 female, ages 20 and 50.

Non-respiratory, 1 female age 15.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis registered, this being the second year in succession that this has happened.

I. am,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. CRUMP.



